



Dryer Hose Pumpkins

While visiting Hobby Lobby I ran into a wonderful gal who asked my opinion about what color to paint her dryer hose pumpkin. She was making them as center pieces for her church and said the idea was almost 2 decades old!

I asked her if I could put it on my website and she said "Yes!" Then I went to the hardware store and bought enough dryer hose to make the pumpkins with my Y5's! Their mommies loved their pumpkins!

You can use a fall-colored leaf or, to make it more of a keepsake, do what I did, and paint your students' hand print a lighter shade of green than the construction paper you press it on. Trim around the edges, add a green pipe cleaner that they wrap around a pencil and you have the finishing touch.

I had the dryer hose sections all stapled before hand. Decide how big you want to make your pumpkins. I kept mine small (18 inches) and used a stapler to fasten the ends together. I stuck a toilet paper tube in the center. Because the hole in the center of the pumpkin is smaller than the tube, there was no need to fasten it.

When the time came to paint the bottom of their pumpkin, children hung on to the tube for a quick & easy way to paint. You can have them paint the t.p. tube stems green, but I had my students simply leave them brown. (Less time & mess.)

Make sure you buy white plastic dryer hose. Most places only sell silver because it is flame retardant. True Value Hardware still sells white and so does Menards. Menards has a 20 foot bag for \$7.99; this will make 11 pumpkins. True Value sells it by the foot as well as a 9 foot bag.

This project will cost you a little over a dollar to make for each pumpkin, so you might want to collect some money for it, or do it only if you have a small class. Make sure you give the children big foam brushes so they brush on a lot of paint. Remind them that they need to get into the cracks so that no white shows.

I covered my tables with brown butcher paper and had them wear paint shirts. As you can see by the photo they really look like those miniature pumpkin gourds! When other teachers saw them they couldn't believe how realistic they looked and that my 4-year-old's had made them!